A NEW *SAPRINUS* FROM IRIAN JAYA (COLEOPTERA: HISTERIDAE)

by

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Abstract

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Saprinus grandiclava sp.n. is described from Irian Jaya. It belongs to the primitive group of Australian and Pacific *Saprinus*-species with non-fused paramera.

Key words. — Histeridae, new species, Irian Jaya, Oriental region.

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Introduction

In 1973 the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie in Leiden obtained the beetle collection of the late P. H. van Doesburg Sr. This collection contains predominantly beetles collected in the former Dutch East Indies. Among the unidentified Histeridae in this collection I found some specimens of a new *Saprinus*-species from Hollandia in the former Dutch New Guinea (present name: Jayapura, Irian Jaya, Indonesia). The description is as follows:

Saprinus grandiclava sp.n.
(figs. 1—5)

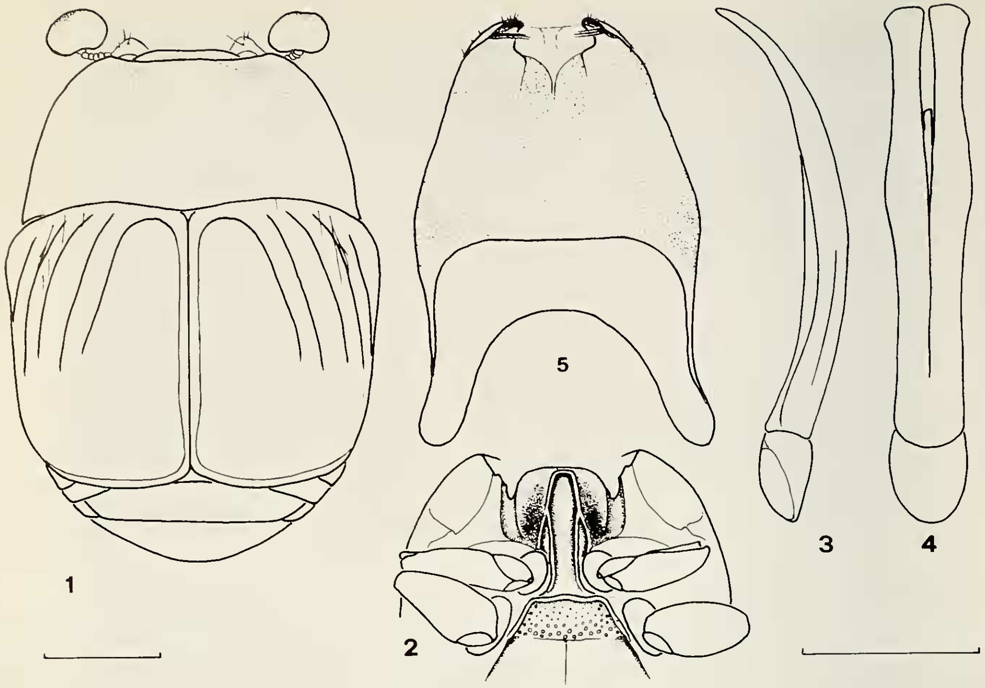
Description

Body outline (fig. 1) broadly oval, moderately convex. Length of body (head, propygidium and pygidium excluded): 4.0 mm., width of body: 3.3 mm. Colour brownish black, shiny; vertex and elytra metallic blue, pronotum with cupreous metallic lustre.

Head: Mandibulae regularly bent, convex, punctured, tip sharply pointed. Labrum transverse, emarginate. Clypeus continuous with front, hardly convex, finely punctate. Front flat, moderately and scarcely punctate. Frontal stria interrupted, continuous with supraorbicular striae. Eyes reniform, of normal size and prominence. Antennae: Segment 1 clubshaped, bent, with 3 setae and fine microsculpture of parallel lines; segment 2 about as long as wide, segment 3 longer than wide, segments 4-7 transverse. Antennal clubs very large, transverse reniform, entirely pubescent, their greatest (transverse) length 0.65 × the distance between the eyes on the vertex; no sutures visible by pubescence, undersides with a large reniform, flaccid impression; no sensorial plaques or pits visible.

Pronotum: Two times wider than long in median line; base bisinuate, lateral sides moderately convergent, near apex bent interiorly, anterolateral angles blunt, emargination for the head moderately deep. Marginal stria complete, though very fine behind head. Foveolae behind eyes well-developed; disk punctulate, along both sides a band of coarse punctures, slightly impressed at apical onethird. Coarse punctures along base; epipleura not fimbriate. Scutellum triangular.

Elytra: Together 1.3 times wider than long, disk and lateral sides punctulate, apical half moderately punctate, punctation reaching humeral bosses in interstria 1, and slightly entering interstriae 2-4. Punctation towards apex smaller and denser, reaching apical stria. Humeral bosses prominent. Sides moderately convergent posteriorly, straight, near the apex bent interiorly, apex of each elytron roundedly truncate. Marginal epipleural stria distinct, ending shortly before posterolateral angle. Marginal elytral stria distinct, continuous with complete apical stria. Outer subhumeral stria short, basal. Inner subhumeral stria medial, punctate, reaching a little beyond dorsal stria 1, continuous with distinct oblique humeral stria. Four dorsal striae, punctate, ending a little beyond elytral mid-



Figs. 1—5: *Saprinus grandiclava* nov.spec. 1: Body outline. 2: Pro- and mesosternum. 3: Aedeagus, right lateral view. 4: Aedeagus, dorsal view. 5: Eight sternite, ventral view. Scale lines: Left 1 mm. (figs. 1, 2), right 0.5 mm. (figs. 3—5).

dle, striae 1 and 3 a little longer than striae 2 and 4. Stria 4 connected in an arch with complete sutural stria, these continuous with apical stria. Interstrial distance 2 wider than interstrial distances 1 and 3. Longitudinal strioles near base of stria 1 and 2.

Propygidium: Short, moderately punctate with few punctules intermixed, finely microsculptured between punctures; faint impressions laterally.

Pygidium: Punctured and microsculptured as propygidium, punctures near apex smaller.

Prosternum (fig. 2): Internal prosternal striae convergent between procoxae, next slightly divergent anteriorly, then bent with blunt angles and slightly convergent, at the apex united in a short transverse arch. These striae gradually deeper anteriorly, sulciform, giving margins of prosternal keel a convex ridgelike appearance. Prosternal keel between striae slightly convex, minutely punculate. No true lateral prosternal striae, these replaced by descending ridges, which are deeply delimited behind, and fuse with margins of prosternal keel at position of the blunt angles. Antennal grooves large and deep, encroaching upon prosternal keel, prosteriorly delimited by the descending lateral prosternal ridges, anteriorly not delimited by a ridge. Grooves for the antennal funicles wide and deep.

Mesosternum (fig. 2): Fine marginal stria complete; anterior part finely punctate, posterior part with coarse punctures, meso-metasternal suture barely visible, straight, laterally obsolete.

Metasternum: Disk finely punctulate, before posterior margin and along oblique lateral striae with coarser punctures. Slightly impressed along median line, especially anteriorly and posteriorly; median line ending a little before hind margin. Oblique lateral metasternal striae ending amply before hind coxae, slightly sulciform anteriorly.

Abdomen: First visible abdominal sternite with coarse punctures along anterior margin, smaller punctures laterally and behind, disc finely punctulate. Oblique postcoxal striae ending a little before hindmargin. Other sternites moderately punctate.

Legs: Protibiae with six teeth at outer margin, 4 additional minute denticles proximally, and 3 small apical teeth. Meso- and metatibiae spinulate at superior edge. Tarsae fimbriate inferiorly.

Genitalia: Aedeagus (figs. 3, 4): Slightly curved, parameres not fused with penis, their tips roundedly truncate. Eighth sternite: fig. 5.

Holotype: "HOLLANDIA / NW. GUINEA / P. H. V. DOESBURG"; "Museum Leiden / collectie / Van Doesburg / rec. 1973"; red label: "Holotype ♂ / Saprinus / grandiclava / P. Kanaar des. 1989".

Holotype missing right mesotarsus, and 3 distal lids of left mesotarsus and right metatarsus respectively. The alae are stretched out. Allotype: Same data as holotype, length: 4.3 mm. Width: 3.6 mm. Metasternum without impression. Vaginal palpes deeply triangularly emarginate at apex, styli long. Paratypes: 1 male, 2 females, same data as holotype.

Variability: The divergency of the prosternal striae varies a little; in one of the female paratypes the striae are parallel, the blunt angles barely indicated.

Holotype, allotype and one paratype in the collection of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie in Leiden, two paratypes in the author's private collection, which has been legated to the same museum.

DISCUSSION

According to P. H. van Doesburg Jr. his father has never been in Dutch New Guinea himself (personal communication). The beetles from Hollandia and surroundings were collected on his request and sent to him by one of his friends, Mr. W. Stüber. Nothing is known about the date of the capture or the circumstances under which the beetles were found. Details concerning the collecting-activities of Mr. Stüber are given by Lieftinck (1932).

The new species belongs to a group of Australian and Pacific species, in which the paramera are not fused with the penis. This is considered to be a primitive feature (Dahlgren 1971). The absence of sensorial plaques or pits on the antennal clubs might be a primitive character too. *Saprinus grandiclava* differs among other things from all other members of this group by the different form of the paramera and 8th sternites, which were pictured by Dahlgren (1962, 1968, 1971). The antennal clubs are unusually big; in the other members of this group the clubs are of normal proportions in *Saprinus pseudocyaneus* White, *S. australis* Boisduval (syn.: *S. tasmanicus* Marseul) and *S. detritus* Fabricius (syn. *S. antipodus* Dahlgren); in the descriptions of the other species of the group, not known to me (*S. amethystinus* Lewis and *S. tyrrhenus* Blackburn), nothing is said about the dimension of the clubs, apparently being of normal proportions.

Note: The name of the species is based on the strikingly big antennal clubs.

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